

Federal Judicial Center

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The Federal Judicial Center, established by Congress in 1967, is the research and education agency of the federal judicial system. The Center's duties include conducting and promoting orientation and continuing education and training for federal judges, court employees, and others; developing recommendations about the operation and study of the federal courts; and conducting and promoting research on federal judicial procedures, court operations, and history. By statute, the Chief Justice of The Supreme Court of the United States chairs the Center's Board, which also includes the director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and seven judges elected by the Judicial Conference of the United States. The Board appoints the Center's director and deputy director and in turn the director appoints the Center's staff.

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Created under the provisions of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the United States Sentencing Commission is an independent agency in the judicial branch and is responsible for establishing guidelines for federal judges to use when sentencing organizations and individuals convicted of federal crimes. The Commission's initial guidelines, as well as the related provisions of the Crime Control Act, went into effect on November 1, 1987. The Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The United States Attorney General and the chair of the United States Parole Commission also serve on the Sentencing Commission as non-voting, ex-officio members.

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